

## Resources

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*Online Access to the Trust Territory Archives Photograph Collection*

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In the 1980s, as the United States began to wind down operations of its administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), the Trust Territory government undertook a massive microfilming project, designed to preserve its archival records for use in the United States and in each of the new governments of Micronesia. Trust Territory Archivist Sam McPhetres and his staff, in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i Library, surveyed all government files on Saipan, capital of the former Trust Territory. As the selected materials were microfilmed, a computer index was created to allow access to records by title of a particular file and by subject headings assigned to that file. Over two thousand reels of microfilm were sent to the UH Library, where copies were made and deposited in the archives of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The computer index to the Trust Territory Archives (TTA) became a subsystem of the UH Library's automated catalog, UHCARL, a part of the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (CARL) network.<sup>1</sup>

When the project was completed, the Trust Territory government sent original documents such as correspondence files, memoranda, reports, and consultant studies pertaining directly to a particular Micronesian region to the appropriate government. A small audiovisual collection, numerous maps, and a photograph collection

were donated to the UH Library's Pacific Collection.

### TRUST TERRITORY ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Just as the Trust Territory Archives microfilm collection records the history of the American period in Micronesia, the Photograph Collection documents the visual history of the era (1947–1988). The Photograph Collection contains 50,000 photographs and over 2000 slides. Much of this material was rescued from discarded files thanks to the persistence of Trust Territory Archivist McPhetres.

The collection is made up of two separate categories. The largest set, which was originally housed in 126 binders, contains photographs by various staff photographers and others, and includes extensive work done by the former TTPI Public Affairs Department. Many of the photographs were created for use in the publications of the Trust Territory government, such as the newsletter *Highlights*, the quarterly magazine *Micronesian Reporter*, the annual report to the United Nations, and a host of other reports, studies, and curriculum materials. The subject matter of the photographs spans a wide range of topics, such as the visits of US Congressional teams, school graduations, cultural events such as the building of a traditional Palauan *bai*, gatherings of chiefs, meetings of the Congress of Micronesia, aquaculture and agriculture projects, exhibits of handicraft, the Micronesian Olympics, United Nations Day cele-

brations, and other traditional and religious festivals.

The second and smaller part of the collection (18 binders) is informally known as the Peacock Collection. These materials were organized under the direction of former Trust Territory Supervisor of Library Services Daniel J Peacock, in a project for the Department of Education. In an effort to supply appropriate materials for classroom teachers and curriculum design projects, Peacock had photographs made of illustrations in early ethnographic works and historical studies. These were subsequently arranged by subject and by district, to allow access, for example, to photographs of canoe building in Yap. The set also contains contemporary scenes of village life in Micronesia in the 1970s.

#### TTA PHOTOGRAPH DIGITIZED DATABASE

In 1991 the Pacific Collection received a US Higher Education Act Title II-C federal grant under the category "Strengthening Library Resources" to allow specialized work with the TTA Photograph Collection.<sup>2</sup> The project was designed to inventory the collection and to select significant images to be scanned for inclusion in a digitized database, a system that would allow researchers to call up images of the photographs and slides on the same terminal used in searching the online index. As project staff worked to inventory and rehouse the collection, I began a review of each file. The Photograph Collection was originally organized in files that gathered similar subjects under an appropriate general heading, rather than providing a full

description for each image in the folder. For example, a collection of photographs titled "Photos of early high commissioners and administration, Micronesian leadership and miscellaneous people, 1953-1962" includes a wide range of persons and events. Figure 1 illustrates the format of the entries in the online index and the nature of the descriptions written for those photographs selected for the digitizing project.

In this example, the first item that appears is the "author" entry. Because the UH Library converted the Saipan index tapes to internationally recognized MARC (machine-readable cataloging) format, information in the original database had to be redone to fit the categories required by MARC format and the university's online catalog. The information that appears in the "author" entry is actually the name of the agency that held the files that were selected for preservation by the original project team; for example, this set of photographs was originally in the possession of the Trust Territory Department of Public Affairs. The "title" entry is the broad description of the file. In the original index design, a span of years was cited, that is, 1953-1962. Because the MARC format requires a date of publication rather than a range of years, the computer program picks up the first date given, in this instance, 1953. Following the date is the inventory information regarding the contents of the folder. In many cases the folders of photographs either did not include negatives or had negatives for only a portion of the photographs. Thus, in the citation given, the folder contained 25 photo-



Celebration at Outer Islands High School, Ulithi, circa late 1960s. (*Trust Territory Archives, UH Library*)



Pohnpei delegates and traditional leaders, Micronesian Constitutional Convention, Saipan, 1975. (*Trust Territory Archives, UH Library*)

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AUTHOR(S): Department of Public Affairs  
 TITLE(S): Photos of early high commissioners and administration,  
 Micronesian leadership and misc. people. 1953-1962.

1953  
 25 b/w photographs, 11 copy negatives and 14 original negatives; 2 duplicates. (22 imaged).

DIGITAL IMAGE: Image File: AAER0001031A.22  
 Photo 1—En route to Pan Pacific Women's Conference in Tokyo. Left to right: Rose Makweloung (Ponape), Mary Lanwi (Marshalls), and Miter Haruo (Truk), 1958. (NO-1931A.01).  
 Photo 2—Presidents of district congresses meet with Saipan Legislature, July 1962. Left to right: Bethwel Henry (Ponape), Joachim Falmog (Yap), Amata Kabua (Marshalls), David Ramarui (Palau). (N-1931A.02).  
 Photo 3—T.T. delegates to South Pacific Conference at Guam after return from Rabaul. Left to right: Kasiano Joseph, Napoleon Defang, Frank Mahoney. (N-1A).  
 Photo 4—Anthropological Conference Feb. 1957. Assistant anthropologists, left to right: Gustav Weilbacher, Tion Bikajle, Francisco Degnign. (N-F9).

OTHER ENTRIES: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
 Political and Social Development  
 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
 Public Relations Films and Photographs

LIBRARY: UHM IMAGED CALL#:MFILM V10001 REEL 1931A Frame NA

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FIGURE 1. Format of entries in the online index.

graphs and 14 negatives. The UH Library produced copy negatives for 11 of the photographs. Of the 25 photographs in the folder, 22 were selected for inclusion in the digitized database. These 22 were then described in the listing style shown in Figure 1.

In many instances the photographs had identifications written on the back, or labels attached, that permitted

easy description of individuals, places, or events. However, it was also necessary for me to rely on personal knowledge of individuals and events or to track down information through research using the publications of the era in order to complete adequate descriptions of the photographs. In the first photograph listed here, the Micronesian delegates to the 1958 Pan

Pacific Women's conference are identified by name and district. In this manner the database was expanded to provide access to persons and events of importance in Micronesian history.

The "other entries" category of the citation is the subject heading listing. In the UHCARL system (the online catalog) this would contain the Library of Congress subject headings assigned to a work by the cataloger. In the TTA tapes as devised on Saipan, both geographic and subject headings were assigned to each record, and these were placed in the "other entries" category of the UHCARL records. Users must be aware that these are not Library of Congress subject headings. Librarians familiar with the online index to the TTA have found that keyword searching is the best strategy for retrieval of information, as this method picks up words used in the descriptive title of each record. In the case of records of photographs and other visual images, keyword searching surveys the title as well as each photo identification. A search in the

UHCARL TTA index for "women Marshalls," or for the name Mary Lanwi, would have retrieved twenty-one items for the former and five items for the latter. In both instances, the file containing the photograph of the Pan Pacific Women's Conference delegates would be among the items retrieved. A search may be restricted to images rather than documents by adding the word *photographs* to the other keywords being used. Figure 2 shows a portion of the list of citations found after searching for the keywords "Lazarus Salii photographs."

In the search results displayed in figure 2, the author and title entries are shortened by the character space available. The information to the right of each title informs the user that the holding library is University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The term *imaged* indicates that items from the file have been scanned and entered in the digitized database and are available for viewing at public workstations set up for the TTA Photograph Collection. The date may or may not be helpful, as

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1	Department of Public United nations exhibit of micron	UHM IMAGED 1984 MFILM V10001 Reel 3386 F
2	High Commissioner Photos of the 1984 tt exhibit	UHM IMAGED 1984 MFILM V10001 Reel 1895a
3	Department of Public Photos of united nations trustee	UHM IMAGED 1978 MFILM V10001 Reel 3377 F
4	Department of Public Constitutional convention july-	UHM IMAGED 1975 MFILM V10001 Reel 3521 F
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FIGURE 2. An example of a list of citations.

this information (as noted earlier) shows the earliest date of what is often a range of years covered by the file contents. In the space where the UHCARL system normally displays a Library of Congress call number, the location symbols used may seem confusing (ie, MFILM V10001 Reel 3386 F). The original design of the index centered on the large microfilm collection and identified files by reel and frame numbers. When the indexers cataloged the photograph files, they used the same numbering system that had been set up for the microfilm. At the time the index was converted for use on UHCARL, UH Library simply preserved the existing identification system. Although each call number for a photograph or slide reads "MFILM," none of these materials are on microfilm, and the "reel" number is read as the file number and is used to locate the actual file should the user need to go from digitized database to the original photographs or slides.

A researcher using one of the designated workstations that accesses the TTA digitized database searches for pertinent subject material, and on finding descriptions that are relevant to the topic, is able to view the image(s) on the terminal screen. The UH Library employed digitizing technology as a means of preserving archival photographs and slides, as the online viewing of images eliminates much of the need for handling of the original files. In addition, the researcher has the keyword searching capability and instant image viewing.

The digitizing project began in earnest in January 1992, after initial research and procurement of micro-

computers, scanner, and software for scanning production had been completed. Although the university used procedures developed by the Boulder Public Library digitizing project and CARL Systems Inc, "starter" documentation provided to us required updating through experimentation with scanning and cataloging. Project Manager Ann Toyota Rabinko and UH Systems Librarian Martha Chantiny created processing procedures and learned to use the scanning software and equipment, as well as the CARL software used to update the bibliographic records.<sup>3</sup>

By December 1993 over six thousand images had been digitized, and these form the new database. Approximately fifty thousand photographs had been surveyed, and of these, twelve percent were selected for inclusion in the digitized database. The Peacock Collection material was not scanned, as the majority of the photographs came from published works with a variety of copyright problems. Slide scanning was the last activity undertaken and will continue through the summer of 1995. The ratio of selected versus excluded images may seem small, but this is largely the result of duplication within the files. Many of the files include a variety of photographs of the same individual or event, as is standard practice in photographic work. When reviewing these files, I would usually select only one photograph to represent a series of shots of the same person, event, or place. Another factor in the selection process involved the nature of the collection itself. Because the photographs had their origins in the programs and





TTA Project Manager Ann Toyota Rabinko compares a photo with the digitized image. (Photo by Tom Brown)

projects of the Trust Territory government, many files contained visual documentation related to such matters as construction and engineering. These photographs had no great historical or cultural interest, and were excluded from the new database. (The TTA online index does, however, provide access to the general descriptive titles of such files, should future need for them arise.)

The Trust Territory Photograph Collection is of obvious importance to historians, but this material will also be useful for research in biographical studies, architecture, ethnography, art, education, geography, fisheries, and a number of other fields. The collection has already been a rich source of data

for many, and users to date include historians, ethnographic researchers, textbook authors, teachers, specialists in disaster relief, and economic development workers. The collection will be able to supply unique illustrations for academic monographs, textbooks, dissertations, theses, research papers, and journal articles concerning the Trust Territory. Most of the collection has no copyright restriction, as the photographs were produced by or for the Trust Territory government, and can be freely used. Photographs for the collection have appeared in Don Farrell's 1991 work, *History of the Northern Mariana Islands*. Two forthcoming UH Press monographs, *Tides of History: The Pacific Islands in the Twentieth*





Dr Ulai Otobed, first Micronesian woman doctor, visits a patient, circa 1973.  
(Trust Territory Archives, UH Library)

Century (1994) and Francis X Hezel's *Strangers in Their Own Land: A Century of Colonial Rule in the Caroline and Marshall Islands* (1995), contain illustrations drawn from the TTA Photograph Collection. In addition to its usefulness as a source of illustrations for monographs, reports, and theses, the collection will also be a prime source for those Micronesians attempting to trace photographs of family members or seeking visual evidence of important events in recent history (such as the Micronesian Constitutional Convention).

The Trust Territory Archives Photograph Collection's digitized database offers a wide range of images to the researcher in an efficient and conve-

nient fashion. Keyword searching allows the user to identify bibliographic records of interest, from which one can call up images of the photographs listed, view them on a workstation screen, and print copies. The Pacific Collection staff hope that as faculty, students, and visitors begin to work with this new resource, they will provide us with any information that might further enhance the records that make up the index. Discovering the identity of unnamed faces who appear in the database, identifying a building seen in the background of a shot of a United Nations Day parade, describing a particular dance performed for the Congress of Micronesia opening, will all ensure the continued growth of the

database and expand its usefulness. This new resource combines the goals of better access and preservation, and offers a tool to expand our awareness of the people and events of the Trust Territory.<sup>4</sup>

KAREN M PEACOCK

## Notes

1 For details on the preservation project and the nature of the Trust Territory Archives and its index, see my 1989 article, "Across All Micronesia: Records of the US Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands," *The Contemporary Pacific* 1: 167-171.

2 This article has drawn some of its text from *Trust Territory Archives*, a pamphlet published by the UH Library Pacific Collection, 1994, and available from the Pacific Collection, University of Hawai'i Library, 2550 The Mall, Honolulu, HI 96822.

3 For technical details see Martha Chantiny's 1993 article, "Incorporating Digitized Images in the UH CARL PAC Online Catalog," *Library Software Review* 12(1): 22-26.

4 For Further information about the Trust Territory Archives at UH, please contact Karen Peacock at the address given in note 2.